

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 ACDA-07 DHA-02 ORM-02

VO-03 SCA-01 FBIE-00 INSE-00 SY-05 /084 R

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O P 072347Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221440

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT:MIG-25: PRESS GUIDANCE/QUERIES

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR NOON (/ 7/76)
BRIEFING ON MIG-25 DEFECTION, PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

(A) QUESTION: WILL WE GRANT THE MIG PILOT ASYLUM?
ANSWER: THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT NOTIFIED US OF THE REQUEST
FOR ASYLUM YESTERDAY. WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE REQUEST AND
HAVE INDICATED THAT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO ALLOW THE PILOT
TO COME TO THE US. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IS HIS DESIRE.

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(B) QUESTION: WHEN WILL HE COME TO THE US?

ANSWER: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE THE AIR INTRUSION. WHEN THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT STATES THAT THE PILOT IS FREE TO DEPART, AND IF THE PILOT SO DESIRES, HE COULD THEN PROCEED TO THE UNITED STATES. I HAVE NOTHING FIRM ON THAT .

(C) QUESTION: WHEN WILL THE JAPANESE RETURN THE PLANE TO THE RUSSIANS?

ANSWER: YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

(D) QUESTION: IF THE PILOT COMES TO THE US, WILL WE NOTIFY THE SOVIETS AND ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE PILOT FOR THEM?

ANSWER: IF THE PILOT ELECTS TO COME TO THE US, HE WOULD HAVE THE OPTION, IF HE DESIRED, OF MEETING WITH SOVIET CONSULAR OFFICERS. IF DESIRED BY THE PILOT, WE WOULD HELP ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING. HE WOULD NOT HOWEVER BE OBLIGED TO MEET WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS IF HE DID NOT SO DESIRE.

2. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS RAISED AT NOON BRIEFING:

(A) WHAT IS US DOING TO TRY TO LOOK AT THIS PLANE?

(B) WAS THE USG PART OF A NATO REQUEST TO VIEW PLANE?

(C) HAVE WE HAD ANY CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIETS ON THIS MATTER?

FYI. ANSWERS TO ALL OF THESE WILL BE "NO COMMENT". END FYI
ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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